

to cost and those who wanted small Government without regard to need. Too often the result has been too few needs met at too high a cost. This budget offers a new approach—a different approach for an era that expects a Federal Government that is both active to promote opportunity and limited to preserve freedom.

Our new approach is compassionate:

It will revitalize our public schools by testing for achievement, rewarding schools that succeed, and giving more flexibility to parents of children in schools that persistently fail.

It will reinvigorate our civil society by putting Government on the side of faith-based and other local initiatives that work—that actually help Americans escape drugs, lives of crime, poverty, and despair.

It will meet our Nation's commitments to seniors. We will strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare, and provide prescription drugs to low-income seniors.

This new approach is also responsible:

It will retire nearly \$1 trillion in debt over the next four years. This will be the largest debt reduction ever achieved by any nation at any time. It achieves the maximum amount of debt reduction possible without payment of wasteful premiums. It will reduce the indebtedness of the United States, relative to our national income, to the lowest level since early in the 20th Century and to the lowest level of any of the largest industrial economies.

It will provide reasonable spending increases to meet needs while slowing the recent explosive growth that could threaten future prosperity. It moderates the growth of discretionary spending from the recent trend of more than six percent to four percent, while allowing Medicare and Social Security to grow to meet the Nation's commitments to its retirees.

It will deliver tax relief to everyone who pays income taxes, giving the most dramatic reductions to the least affluent taxpayers. It will also give our economy a timely second wind and reduce the tax burden—now at the highest level as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product since World War II.

Finally, this new approach begins to confront great challenges from which Government has too long flinched. Social Security as it now exists will provide future beneficiaries with the equivalent of a dismal two percent real rate of return on their investment, yet the system is headed for insolvency. Our new approach honors our commitment to Social Security by reserving every dollar of the Social Security payroll tax for Social Security, strengthening the system by making further necessary reform feasible.

Medicare as it exists does not adequately care for our seniors in many ways, including the lack of prescrip-

tion drug coverage. Yet Medicare spending already exceeds Medicare taxes and premiums by \$66 billion this year, and Medicare will spend \$900 billion more than it takes in over the next 10 years. Reform is urgently needed. Our new approach will safeguard Medicare by ensuring that the resources for reform will be available.

New threats to our national security are proliferating. They demand a rethinking of our defense priorities, our force structure, and our military technology. This new approach begins the work of restoring our military, putting investments in our people first to recognize their importance to the military of the future.

It is not hard to see the difficulties that may lie ahead if we fail to act promptly. The economic outlook is uncertain. Unemployment is rising, and consumer confidence is falling. Excessive taxation is corroding our prosperity. Government spending has risen too quickly, while essential reforms, especially for our schools, have been neglected. And we have little time before the demographic challenge of Social Security and Medicare becomes a crisis.

We cannot afford to delay action to meet these challenges. And we will not. It will demand political courage to face these problems now, but I am convinced that we are prepared to work together to begin a new era of shared purposes and common principles. This budget begins the work of refining those purposes and those principles into policy—a compassionate, responsible, and courageous policy worthy of a compassionate, responsible, and courageous Nation.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 28, 2001.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, and the order of the House of Wednesday, February 14, 2001, the Speaker on Thursday, February 15, 2001 appointed the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Co-chairman, Mr. WOLF of Virginia, Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee, and Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 8002 of the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee on Ways and Means designated the following Members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 107th Congress: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SHAW, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. STARK.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to be accredited by the President as official advisers to United States delegations to international conferences, meetings, and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements during the first session of the 107th Congress: Mr. THOMAS of California, Mr. CRANE of Illinois, Mr. SHAW of Florida, Mr. RANGEL of New York, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by 28 United States soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, and resolving to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by 28 United States soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack on February 25, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, and resolving to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-830. A communication from the Acting General Counsel for the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Report of Tabulation of Population to States and Localities Pursuant to 13 USC 141(c) and Availability of Other Population Information; Revocation of Delegation of Authority" (RIN0607-AA33) received on February 21, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-831. A communication from the Acting Director of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report containing the list of government activities not inherently governmental in nature for the year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-832. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-579, "Anthony W. Simms Tunnel Designation Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.